



EQUUS Journeys

HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Last updated 30/01/2025

Flexible getaway in Bourbonnais

AUVERGNE - ARDECHE

Escape to the heart of France for this getaway in **Auvergne**, just a few hours from the country's major cities. Set amidst the picturesque landscape of Bourbonnais, this riding holiday offers a **unique stay** in an elegant yet intimate **19th-century chateau** with just 19 rooms. Perched on a hill within a sprawling **40-hectare park**, the chateau offers sweeping views of the countryside. Here, you can develop your skills in dressage, take on some jumps, or simply enjoy a relaxed trail ride in nature.

Centre based holidays	4 days (2 days riding)	From £565		Family holidays from 3 y.o	Open to non-riders
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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Lovely accommodation in a chateau, now a 4-star hotel
- Refined cuisine using local and fresh produce
- Well trained horses – suitable for all skill levels
- Flexible stays make this the perfect option for a weekend getaway!

Day 1 — 1: Home – Chateau in Bourbonnais - No riding or 1h riding

Chateau Ygrande

Fly to Lyon (or Paris). Flights are not included but can be arranged upon request.

The best option is to rent a car and drive to the chateau (approx. 3h drive). There is also the possibility to arrange a transfer from Moulins sur Allier train station to the chateau (not included).

Your room will be available from 3pm onwards. After settling in, you are free to enjoy the hotel facilities: heated pool (seasonal), hammam, walking trails and mountain bikes.

Depending on your schedule, you may have your first riding session today.

Dinner will be served at the hotel restaurant.

Day 2 — 2: Chateau in Bourbonnais - 2h riding

After breakfast, you will meet the team at the stables.

Depending on the programme you selected when booking (Dressage, jumping or hacks) and the length of your stay, the exact schedule may vary. Usually, there will be one hour in the saddle in the morning and another in the afternoon.

Dressage lessons: You can expect for work on your flat work and practice movements like the shoulder in and flying changes.

Jumping lessons: from introduction to jumping for less experienced riders, all the way up to 1m/1,1m for more confident riders.

Dinner and overnight at the chateau.

Day 3 — 3: Chateau in Bourbonnais - 2h riding

After breakfast, you will meet the team at the stables.

Depending on the programme you selected when booking (Dressage, jumping or hacks) and the length of your stay, the exact schedule may vary. Usually, there will be one hour in the saddle in the morning and another in the afternoon.

Dressage lessons: You can expect for work on your flat work and practice movements like the shoulder in and flying changes.

Jumping lessons: from introduction to jumping for less experienced riders, all the way up to 1m/1,1m for more confident riders.

Dinner and overnight at the chateau.

Day 4 — 4: Chateau in Bourbonnais – Home - No riding or 1h riding

After breakfast, you will have your last riding session (depending on your schedule). Check out at 12 (midday). If your riding lesson is scheduled for the late morning, the check-out time will be adjusted.

A transfer back to Moulins sur Allier train station can be arranged upon request.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
14/02/2025	17/02/2025	£565	Open
21/02/2025	24/02/2025	£565	Open
28/02/2025	03/03/2025	£565	Open
07/03/2025	10/03/2025	£565	Open
14/03/2025	17/03/2025	£565	Open
21/03/2025	24/03/2025	£565	Open
28/03/2025	31/03/2025	£597	Open
04/04/2025	07/04/2025	£597	Open
11/04/2025	14/04/2025	£597	Open
18/04/2025	21/04/2025	£628	Open
25/04/2025	28/04/2025	£597	Open
02/05/2025	05/05/2025	£597	Open
09/05/2025	12/05/2025	£628	Open
16/05/2025	19/05/2025	£597	Open
23/05/2025	26/05/2025	£597	Open

30/05/2025	02/06/2025	£628	Open
06/06/2025	09/06/2025	£597	Open
13/06/2025	16/06/2025	£597	Open
20/06/2025	23/06/2025	£597	Open
27/06/2025	30/06/2025	£597	Open
04/07/2025	07/07/2025	£628	Open
11/07/2025	14/07/2025	£628	Open
18/07/2025	21/07/2025	£628	Open
25/07/2025	28/07/2025	£628	Open
01/08/2025	04/08/2025	£628	Open
08/08/2025	11/08/2025	£628	Open
15/08/2025	18/08/2025	£628	Open
22/08/2025	25/08/2025	£628	Open
29/08/2025	01/09/2025	£628	Open
05/09/2025	08/09/2025	£628	Open
12/09/2025	15/09/2025	£597	Open
19/09/2025	22/09/2025	£597	Open
26/09/2025	29/09/2025	£597	Open
03/10/2025	06/10/2025	£565	Open
10/10/2025	13/10/2025	£565	Open
17/10/2025	20/10/2025	£597	Open
24/10/2025	27/10/2025	£597	Open
31/10/2025	03/11/2025	£597	Open
07/11/2025	10/11/2025	£565	Open
14/11/2025	17/11/2025	£565	Open
21/11/2025	24/11/2025	£565	Open
28/11/2025	01/12/2025	£565	Open
05/12/2025	08/12/2025	£565	Open
12/12/2025	15/12/2025	£565	Open
19/12/2025	22/12/2025	£565	Open

Price details

- Flights or transportation to your destination (international) are not included but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin or double "Pavillion" room (upgrades available), with 2 riding hours per day (1h on departure/arrival). The rates are season dependent (low, mid and high).

- Dates are flexible and you can arrive/depart on any day and stay for as long as you like. This holiday will confirm for one person and all departures are

guaranteed. We recommend a stay of 4 nights or more, but it is possible to stay for as little as 2. Please contact us for a personalised quote over your preferred dates.

IMPORTANT: Please note that the restaurant is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays at lunchtime. At dinner time, the menu is fixed (no option available).

- The lessons are held with a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 4 international riders, per level. It's possible to arrange private lessons, please enquire for further details.

- If you sign up to the ride as a solo rider, you will be charged a single room supplement (will vary depending on season and room type). The supplement for a single Pavillion room (per night):

Low season: €65/£55/\$70

Mid season: €80/£65/\$85

High season: €90/£75/\$100

- Transfers from/to Moulins sur Allier train station are not included. The rate is approx. €60 per car (one way) to be shared with other riders – paid locally.

The transfers are usually scheduled for 2pm on arrival however, they can be adjusted to match your arrival. On departure days please book a train departing after 2pm.

- Accompanied minors are welcome from 3 yo.

- Discounts:

- If you book more than 60 days in advance, you will be eligible for a small discount.

- Accompanying non-riders are welcome and will benefit from a €70/£60/\$75 discount, per night.

- Rider weight limit: 95kg / 210 lbs / 15 st. If you are above this limit, please contact us.

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

LOCAL TEAM

1 riding instructor

ACCOMMODATION

Room in a 4* hotel

MEALS

Full board during the holiday - from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 4

EXTRAS

Bicycles - please request at the front desk

Pool (June-September) and Hamman access

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages and personal extras

TRANSPORTATION

Transfers to the Chateau

International flights

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team

Tax, €2 per night per person, payable locally
Additional activities - Spa treatments, etc

INSURANCE

—
Visas and personal purchase

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

—
Room upgrade

EXTRAS

—
Additional activities - SPA treatments, etc
Trip extensions or additional activities

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

There are around 80 horses. The herd is made up of a variety of breeds – from Shetland ponies to Selle Français. They are all well trained and versatile – comfortable in both indoor and outdoor settings.

Guide & local team

The two qualified instructors who will be teaching you each have their own specialisation: Dressage or Show Jumping.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

—
No particular experience is required for this holiday. Riders of different abilities will ride separately.

Rider weight limit: 95kg / 210 lbs / 15 st

PACE

—
The itinerary can be tailored to your needs. At the time of booking, please let us know if you would like to solely focus on one discipline, or if you are happy to mix and match and experience dressage lessons, jumping and hacks throughout your stay.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

—
You will be required to groom, tack and untack your horse.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

—
No previous experience is required however, if you are a beginner, you should be in good physical condition to fully enjoy your stay.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

—
You will be riding in English tack.

Helmets are mandatory. The team has a few available locally however, we recommend all our guests to bring their own to ensure a proper fit.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

Accommodation and dining are true highlights of this holiday.

There are different room types available:

- Pavilion Room: 13 to 22 m², these rooms can be set up with a Double Bed (180), T win Beds (2 x 90). Located in the Garden Pavilion, on the side of the château, they are furnished in a country style. These rooms are ideal if you're travelling with a pet.
- Classic Room: 13 to 22 m², equipped only with a Double Bed (140). Furnished in country style and facing north, inside the château, these rooms offer a direct view of the training tracks.
- Comfort Room: 16 to 26 m², these rooms can be configured with a Double Bed (160) or T win Beds (2 x 90). Facing south, they offer either a view of the training tracks or the Bourbonnais countryside.
- Superior Room: 22 to 27 m², these are furnished with a Double Bed (160). One T win bed can be added to make a triple room. Facing either north or south, they offer either a view of the training tracks or the Bourbonnais countryside.
- Luxury Room: 35 m², furnished with a Double Bed (160) and featuring only a bathtub. This room has triple orientation (north/south/west) and offers a superb panoramic view of the countryside.

All rooms are equipped with either a shower or a bath, a TV, a minibar (on demand), Wi-Fi, and air conditioning.

The Superior and Luxury rooms also feature a courtesy tray, allowing you to prepare a hot drink at any time.

Please note the pool is open from early June to late September.

MEALS

Please note that the restaurant is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays at lunchtime. At dinner time, there is a set menu (no options available) which is served at a single table for all guests.

All meals are served in the chateau's restaurant. Many of the ingredients used are sourced from the vegetable garden located in the property.

The restaurant was featured in several gastronomic guides, including Le Routard, Le Guide Champérad, Le Bottin Gourmand, and the prestigious Gault et Millau.

Drinks are not included.

CLIMATE

The climate in Auvergne has some mountain influence. Winters are long and cold, while summers are very pleasant but rather short. Winter temperatures drop below 0°C, and in summer, temperatures rise well above 30°C.

TIPS

In France, tipping is appreciated but remains at your discretion and is not mandatory.

PACKING LIST

Head

- A riding helmet is mandatory, and we recommend that you take your own to ensure a correct fit. Helmet makers (GPA, HKM, LAS Helmets, Lamicell, Troxel, Equithème) now offer horse-riding helmets that are ventilated, strong, light and comfortable.
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding

Upper body

- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun or extra warmth
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Rain jacket
- Bathing suit or similar

Lower body

- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Casual clothes for the evenings (jeans or walking trousers)
- Non-irritant cotton or synthetic underwear

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots.
- Lightweight shoes for the evenings
- Several pairs of warm socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, wind or rain whilst riding

Other useful items

- Water bottle (1.5 litres or 2 equivalent)
- Toiletries
- Ear plugs
- Camera and memory card. Spare battery

Medical kit

Make sure any allergies (to medication or otherwise) and clearly stated in your medical kit

- Any medication you regularly take
- Painkillers
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhea medication
- Sunscreen and lip balm
- Eye drops
- Plasters
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc..
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Antiseptic wipes

Our Recommendations

- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bum bag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (camera, sunscreen, lip balm etc)
- A soothing cream may be useful to treat areas irritated by long hours in the saddle
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- Keep a copy of your passport and insurance details with you.

In your hold luggage

- Any liquids, such as shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant over 100 ml and all bottles can be decanted into small, clear, plastic Ziplock bags. We recommend biodegradable washing products where possible.
- We recommend taking a copy of your passport and insurance documents with you in case you lose your originals
- In your hand luggage carry any valuables, such as your camera, ipod, ipad etc.